

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 NEA-10 ACDA-12
COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 /108 W
-----033994 061719Z /45

O 061540Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1654
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 3826

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGSC PINT, NA, SA
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

1. PIK BOTHA'S AIDE, NEIL VAN HEERDEN, TOLD US TODAY, JULY 6,
THAT HE WOULD BE ACCOMPANYING THE MINISTER TO WINDHOEK FOR A
BRIEF UNPUBLICIZED VISIT THIS WEEKEND. VAN HEERDEN SAID THE
MINISTER WOULD BE TALKING WITH THE AG AND OTHER "INTERESTED
INDIVIDUALS." "THEY GET TANGLED UP SOMETIME IN WINDHOEK",
VAN HEERDEN EXPLAINED, AND IT IS IMPORTANT THAT OFFICIALS
LIKE THE MINISTER OCCASIONALLY GIVE THEM
(THE AG'S OFFICE) A BETTER PERSPECTIVE. REFERRING TO
"UNFORTUNATE PUBLIC REMARKS" MADE BY THE AG IN THE PAST,
VAN HEERDEN SUGGESTED THAT, GIVEN THE ISOLATION OF WINDHODK,
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OFFICIALS THERE SOMETIMES THOUGHT THEY WERE ACTING IN
A VACUUM.

2. THE SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS HAS CARRIED REPORTS FROM NEW
YORK THAT THE CONTACT GROUP WILL MEET WITH SWAPO IN
LUANDA ON JULY 10. NEWS COVERAGE HERE HAS SUGGESTED
THAT THE POSSIBILITY OF AN EARLY AGREEMENT HAS

RESURGED. THERE HAS, HOWEVER, BEEN LITTLE EDITORIAL COMMENT ON THE SUBJECT AND NO OFFICIAL STATEMENTS OR INSPIRED NEWS STORIES. SABC RADIO COMMENTARY TODAY, JULY , DISCUSSED ALLEGED PARTIALITY ON THE PART OF UN FORCES IN LEBANON AND SUGGESTED THIS COULD HAVE OMINOUS IMPLICATIONS FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS IN AFRICA.

3. MEANWHILE, ON JULY 5, THE AG ANNOUNCED ANOTHER REFORM, ISSUING A PROCLAMATION SCRAPPING THE CLAUSE IN THE INDUSTRIAL ORDINANCE OF 1952 WHICH BARRED "NATIVES" FROM BELONGING TO TRADE UNIONS. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, THE MOVE WAS WELCOMED BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE LARGEST WHITE TRADE UNION IN THE TERRITORY, THE SWA MUNICIPAL STAFF ASSOCIATION.
EDMONDSON

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